

# REPORT

## ON

# NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 20th August 1904.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 10th

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
Aug. 10th, 1904.

Lord Curzon and the Tibet  
Mission.

August observes:—

Those who had faith in Lord Curzon as *subhanta* (all-knowing) have now been rudely disillusioned. Lord Curzon gave out that the Tibetan Lamas had behind them the support of the mighty power of Russia, and that the object of the Mission, therefore, was not so much to humble the Lamas as to break through this secret wall of Russian influence. It was this plea of Lord Curzon's which led some of the more prominent public men in England to agree with him and approve of the march to Tibet. As a result, hundreds of Tibetans had to shed their blood, which converted into a quagmire even the hard and rocky surface of their country. Thousands of pleasant fields covered with corn were turned into deserts. In the defence of their country, their independence and their religion, the Tibetans freely sacrificed their lives. But they perished like small insects in the terrible conflagration wrought by the British. The Mission of the ever-victorious British Government soon reached Lhasa. But they could not find the least evidence of anything 'Russian' there. We do not know from what reliable source Lord Curzon got his strange information.

2. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th August has the following:—

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 12th, 1904.

The Tibet Mission.

Indeed, long before the expedition was sent it had been secretly settled that the British army would not return without entering Lhasa. In spite of all the attempts made by Lord Curzon's Government to conceal the truth and to hide their real purpose, indications were not wanting which enabled the public to arrive at a correct conclusion as to the object of the Mission. When after crossing the Sanpo the British troops began their march upon Lhasa, the agents of the Dalai Lama implored Colonel Younghusband to stay their advance, representing that their entry into the sacred city would be a violation of the religion of the Tibetans and might even cause the death of the Dalai Lama and his followers. But the head of the Peace Mission turned a deaf ear to these representations. What mattered it if the Dalai Lama was killed or if his territories were ruined? Why should the English desist from their purpose after undergoing so much trouble and expense?

Now that the forbidden city has been reached after an arduous and adventurous march, an outburst of applause in the English Press has greeted Lord Curzon and Colonel Younghusband. Everybody is anxious to know what will follow. Some of the newspapers are for the appointment of a Resident in Tibet, making it a protected State. Lord Curzon, the originator of the Mission, is of this opinion himself. But Mr. Balfour seems evidently not prepared to proceed so far. We do not think, however, that the professions of the Prime Minister possess much value, for affairs are taking an increasingly favourable course, and it will not be long before he changes his mind. Besides, from the indications of a forward policy which can be gathered from the words that fell from his lips the other day, the probable fate of Tibet can be readily surmised. Lord Curzon is now in England, and can anybody doubt that he will do his best in this matter?

The capital has now been occupied. The Government of India can now dictate what terms it pleases, and the Government of the unhappy Dalai Lama must accept them without any protest. If Tibet fails to pay at once the full amount of the compensation that may be demanded, then probably the army of occupation will not leave Lhasa until the payment is made. It may even be thought necessary to keep a Resident at Lhasa to see that the terms of the proposed treaty are not violated. When once the Resident and after him the British merchant have established themselves in Tibet, it will be the turn of the British missionary to follow them in that country. That such a complete change should come over the condition of Tibet is of course a foregone conclusion.

We have borne the huge expenses of the Tibet expedition. The expenses of the Tibetan frontier too, like those of the north-west frontier, will no doubt

fall on our shoulders. It is this thought that fills us with the greatest apprehension. It is we, the poor, helpless subjects of the British Government that must perish under pressure of the burden.

The British army in Tibet has not only massacred the Tibetans, but has brought disgrace upon itself by looting the monasteries. Looting may become a robber chief, but is unworthy of the head of the "Peace Commission" which was sent by the British Government. Government ought to free its Tibetan army from this reproach by returning the articles plundered and taking strict measures for the prevention of a repetition of the crime. We earnestly beseech Government to see that the troops do not plunder Lhasa. His Excellency Lord Ampthill may follow in the footsteps of Lord Curzon or he may not; but His Excellency ought to remember that if he neglects to prevent looting in Tibet and to return the articles plundered, he will be held guilty of neglecting his duty in the eye of justice and equity.

## II—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

### (a)—Police.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Aug. 10th, 1904.

3. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 10th August says that under section 13 of Act VI (B.C.) of 1870, the chaukidari-tax includes both the chaukidar's pay and the cost of his dress. The present rates of the chaukidari-tax were no doubt assessed by panchayets according to this section. Why have they then been realising separate rates for the chaukidar's dress? If it is really necessary to levy a separate tax for any special or imperative necessity, should not a special permission be taken from the Government for the purpose? Will no one give a reply to this question?

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Aug. 18th, 1904.

4. Writing to the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th August, a correspondent complains that the chaukidari-tax in Janai and Baxa villages in the district of Hooghly, as at present assessed, presses unduly hard on the inhabitants. There are proposals under consideration to increase the assessments still further. This has naturally created great dismay among the villagers.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Aug. 12th, 1904.

5. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th August complains of the outrages committed by *gundas* in the Narikeldanga North Road quarter of Beliaghata, a suburb of Calcutta. Recently a number of lawless characters have established themselves on Raja Rajendra Lal Mallik's land, to the south of Mallik's Lodge. These ruffians commit all sorts of oppression on their helpless neighbours, and sometimes trespass into their neighbours' gardens, and create a disturbance there by their drinking and revelry. Recently a case occurred where a party of these ruffians surrounded the houses of some poor neighbours and assaulted the inmates. One or two females received cuts from a *dao*. The aggrieved parties filed a complaint in Court, but the *gundas* used threats of further violence, and the case was withdrawn on payment of costs and ten rupees extra. They have begun their depredations anew, and to put suspicion off their own shoulders, have brought false charges of assault, etc., against some innocent neighbours. Action by the Commissioner of Police is urgently needed.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,  
Aug. 13th, 1904.

6. The *Howrah Hitaiishi* [Howrah] of the 13th August complains against the Sub-Inspector of Police of the Amta thana in the district of Howrah. It is alleged that he is in collusion with the thieves and *gundas* of the locality, and that he allows them time to dispose of their stolen property before taking up the formal inquiries against them. Take the recent case of a daring theft in the house of Babu Rakhal Chandra Chatterji, a well-known pleader of the Amta Courts. The theft occurred on the night of the 21st June last, and it was evening of the next day before the Sub-Inspector made any inquiry into it. Again, two or three notorious *gundas* of that place had been observed to lurk near the house at the very time the theft was committed. The names of these *gundas* were furnished to the Sub-Inspector, who should have

promptly searched their houses. Instead, he first sent secret warning to the *gundas*, and then tried to quiet Rakhai Babu by assuring him that he had made a search in their houses, but found nothing. It appears doubtful if he did even go to their houses at all, at least none else in the thana knew of his going there.

Another case was an attempt at theft in the house of a woman who lives near the Courts. It is questionable if the police have yet taken up their inquiry into this case.

The last case occurred four or five days ago, when money belonging to a vendor at the Registry office was stolen. The police have not yet done anything in this case.

It is to be hoped that the attention of the authorities will be drawn to these cases and some remedy applied.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

7. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 10th August objects to the local District Magistrate arranging to hear criminal appeal cases while out touring in the mufussal.

PRATINIDHI,  
Aug. 10th, 1904.

A complaint against the District Magistrate of Tippera.

This puts suitors to great inconvenience. In criminal appeals the pleaders and mukhtars engaged are usually men of some standing in their profession. The places and times chosen by the Magistrate for the hearing of cases are not always convenient to these men, and cases therefore are often dismissed without a proper hearing. It is to be hoped that the Magistrate will in the future arrange to take up appeal cases only while at the sadar station.

8. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th August writes:—

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 12th, 1904.

Mr. Gainsford in the bogus telegram case.

We can hardly believe that Mr. Gainsford is such a simple, honest and credulous man as to be intimidated by Walsh, who threatened to implicate him in the Darjeeling bogus telegram case by giving evidence against him; and that being so intimidated, he consented to give Walsh money as bribe and visited him and spoke to him, but did not at first hand him over to the police or turn him out, and ended by bringing the affair to the notice of the police. If Mr. Gainsford had been innocent, he would surely have taken the help of the police before he tried to arrest Walsh with the help of two of his friends. Instead of that he paid Rs. 200 to Walsh. The statements of the two friends who waited in the next room to overhear conversation are also untrustworthy. Mr. Gainsford was at the time so hard up for money that he had to take a loan of Rs. 100 from Mr. Hobbs, one of the witnesses. Would it not have been far easier to arrest Walsh with the help of the police than by such round-about methods? Why did not Mr. Chalmers, another witness, who was at one time the Superintendent of the Presidency Jail, point out the right course, and why did he consent to be an eavesdropper? The more one discusses these matters the more one is convinced that Messrs. Hobbs and Chalmers committed perjury to save their friend. The Magistrate alone knows how he could put faith in the statements of these two witnesses.

Did Mr. Gainsford really believe that Walsh was a police officer? He could have ascertained the truth in a moment. Why did he not enquire? It is not stated why Walsh attempted to cheat Mr. Gainsford and not any other man. Important points like these were not raised or discussed in Court. Does this shew Mr. Gainsford's honesty?

At the commencement of his career Mr. Frederick Gainsford brought disgrace upon himself by committing theft in the University of Madras and was turned out. He gained notoriety by being notified in the Government Gazette as a *dagi* offender. He then came to Calcutta and worked in newspaper offices. Shortly afterwards, by what mysterious force or for what merits nobody knows, he became Secretary of the Calcutta Corporation on a salary of Rs. 1,000 per month. More than this no one can say publicly. Nobody can have any regard for a man like Mr. Gainsford when the latter's antecedents are taken into consideration. Even if we leave out of consideration his past career, his present conduct gives little ground for taking him for a well-conducted and innocent man. If Mr. Gainsford had nothing to do with the bogus telegram affair, why did he not inform the police at the very beginning? From a careful consideration of the circumstances of the case we are forced to the conclusion that

Mr. Gainsford is not an honest man. The conviction of Walsh on the complaint of Mr. Gainsford was, we think, an act of the grossest injustice on the part of the Magistrate. We hope a higher tribunal will quash the sentence passed by Maulvi Buzlul Karim whether through mistake or by design.

The phase of Mr. Gainsford's character unravelled in this case will, irrespective of the incidents of this particular case, fill the mind of every ratepayer with misgivings. May we enquire, how came such a man to be employed in the Municipality? A thoroughly competent and perfectly honest man could be easily had on Rs. 1,000. By whom was this notorious man, who had already been stigmatised in the Government Gazette as a *dagi*, selected for the Municipal Secretaryship? A careful enquiry should be instituted for ascertaining where and on what pay this man had been serving before he was appointed to his present post on Rs. 1,000.

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 13th, 1904.

9. Referring to the case against the Mohant of Tarakeshwar which has been dismissed by the District Judge of Hooghly on the ground that the plaintiffs had no right to sue the defendant on the facts at issue, the

The case against the Mohant of Tarakeshwar.

*Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th August writes as follows:—

It is doubtful whether the decision is warranted by law. The Judge admitted that the estate in dispute was a *devottar* estate. Any two or more Hindus are therefore legally competent to bring a case of the above nature against the Mohant under Act VII of 1888. The point of law involved in the case is very important, and its decision by the Calcutta High Court or some such competent authority is to be desired.

HITAVARTA,  
Aug. 14th, 1904.

10. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 14th August says that the present Subdivisional Officer of Narayanganj in the Dacca district is a very ill-tempered officer. It is said that

A complaint against a Subdivisional Officer.

he is very fond of whipping people, and that he himself whips the accused who are convicted and sentenced to whipping. Government ought to teach him a lesson for conducting himself in such a harsh manner.

PALLIVASI,  
Aug. 17th, 1904.

11. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 17th August writes:—

Suggested reforms in Civil Courts.

We strongly disapprove of the principle according to which the first disposal of suits is assigned to the Munsif's Court and the Sub-Judge's Court according to the value of each suit. The dispensation of civil justice degenerates into a shop-keeping affair if the money value of suits is given so much preponderance. Munsifs and Sub-Judges have to decide the same class of suits. Why then should the former get smaller salaries than the latter? There is no grade in the dispensation of justice. Why then should there be grades among Judges who dispense it? It is of the utmost importance to appoint the most learned and the ablest persons as Judges, who should also be elderly persons. It is not at all proper to insist upon any minimum age-limit in appointing judicial officers. It is when a man is advanced in years that he makes a good and efficient Judge. We propose that there should be one class of Courts as Courts of first instance. Similarly, there should be another class of higher appellate Courts for the hearing of first appeals. The High Court should hear second appeals only. Much valuable time of the High Court and a large sum of public money are thrown away by the arrangement according to which many first appeals are heard by the High Court. Civil suits in the city of Calcutta are decided by the Original Side of the High Court. But why should High Court Judges hear suits in Calcutta that are elsewhere heard by Judges receiving smaller pay?

Corruption reigns in the Civil Court offices. Means should be provided to stop the evil. It is discreditable that Judges are not punished for wilful injustice or incapacity. If sufficient control is not exercised upon the Court as well as upon pleaders, the sufferings of those who seek justice in Courts will not be mitigated.

(d)—Education.

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
Aug. 10th 1904.

12. A correspondent of the *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 10th August complains of the condition of the Banaripara School. For over a month now, placards have been put up in the school hall bringing serious

A complaint against some school-masters.

charges against the character of some of the teachers. The Head Master of the school has yet made no inquiries into the truth or falsity of the charges; nor has he made any attempt to find out the culprits who have put up these notices. The local public naturally interpret this inaction on the part of the Head Master as an evidence of the truth of the charges. In that case, such teachers should not be allowed to continue in the school. It is to be hoped that the Secretary of the school and the authorities of the Education Department will make further inquiries into this matter.

13. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 11th August publishes, in English, a circular of information issued by the Honorary Secretary of the Indo-Japanese Association, Tokio, for the benefit of Indian students intending to visit Japan for acquiring technical education.

A circular issued by the Indo-Japanese Association, Tokio

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 11th, 1904.

14. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th August is glad to hear that the Campbell Medical School affair is going to be satisfactorily settled. But the conduct of the Eurasian Deputy Superintendent of the School hospital should be thoroughly enquired into. If the serious complaints made against him are found to be true, he should be at once removed from the hospital; otherwise the cause of future trouble will not be eliminated. The students have done their duty by obeying the order of the authorities. Everybody will now see that the Indian student is not so turbulent and refractory as the English schoolboy. It is to be hoped that the authorities will enquire into the complaints made by the students and do them justice.

The Campbell Medical School students' case.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 12th, 1904.

15. The same paper severely criticises the language and style of the vernacular teacher's manual, *Naba Siksha Bidhi-o-Bastu Path*, by Satis Chandra Mukharji, B.A., Sub-Inspector of Schools, Hooghly. The book, however, says the writer, has been approved by the Text-book Committee and has run into a second edition, which is no wonder, seeing that the author is a Sub-Inspector of Schools.

The vernacular text-books under the new scheme.

HITAVADI.

The reason why so much trouble is being taken in these columns to point out the defects in the vernacular text-books appointed under the new scheme is that these books are calculated to do an irreparable injury to the province and its vernacular. The critics would have been spared this trouble if the greedy, selfish, weak-minded, unconscientious wretches who serve as members of the Text-book Committee had not compelled Indian boys to read and Indian teachers to teach these books. It is a matter of regret that though these books are devoid of any merit, parents are compelled to purchase them and put them into the hands of their boys, who are expected to learn from them a quaint vernacular language, composed of learned words, words from foreign languages, and provincial words. Is Bengal to have no escape from this dilemma?

16. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 12th August observes that Government is firmly bent on removing the Sibpur Engineering College to Ranchi. All the reasons which the public urged against such a step have gone unheeded by the authorities. The struggle for existence among Bengali young men is daily getting keener. Bengali youths in search of bread now go to the furthest parts of the earth like Rangoon, Uganda, Mombassa, China and Japan. But that does not relieve the congestion among seekers of employment here. The Sibpur College was one of the principal avenues to employment for Bengali youths. Bengalis as a class are not very well off pecuniarily. There are very few of them who will be able to afford the expense of educating their sons at Ranchi. Sibpur was at a convenient distance and within reach of the means of the guardians of the students. As ninety-five per cent. of the Bengali middle classes are clerks, their means cannot carry them far. It is highly regrettable that a beneficent Government overlooked this consideration of the means of its poor subjects.

Proposed removal of the Sibpur Engineering College to Ranchi.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Aug. 12th, 1904.

17. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 13th August observes:—  
There is a rumour abroad that the authorities will soon remove the Sibpur Engineering College to Ranchi. The reason assigned for the removal is that Sibpur is an unhealthy place subject to malaria, while Ranchi is a healthy

Proposed removal of the Sibpur Engineering College.

RATNAKAR,  
Aug. 13th, 1904.

place, almost a second Darjeeling. Our impression is that this is merely a false pretence on the part of the authorities. The thing is, the natives who are educated at this College enjoy fat salaries, and Government does not wish that they should do so any longer. According to Government, natives have no claim to any post carrying a higher pay than forty rupees per month, consequently the further admission of natives into this college has become undesirable. By removing the college to Ranchi, Government is indirectly putting a bar on the future education of natives in this institution. For Ranchi offers as many disadvantages as regards accessibility and subsequent stay there as Sibpur offers advantages. If the college is removed to Ranchi, the natives will not be able to go there except at a great sacrifice of money and convenience. So the college will soon become the sole resort of Europeans and low class Eurasians. We think the same object would have been gained by the more direct course of issuing a circular prohibiting the admission of natives into the Sibpur College, as was done in the case of the Roorkee institution. Where was the need of thus attempting to mislead the public as to the real object of the proposed removal?

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 9th, 1904.

18. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 9th August reports that most of the villages under the jurisdiction of the Satgachhia thana in the district of Burdwan have been suffering from scarcity of drinking-water for the last few years. Neither the District Board nor the Government, however, seem to pay any heed to this complaint. In the villages of Samunti, Basatpur, Kuchut, Kaleswar, etc., specially, the distress was so great that the village women had to go to the neighbouring localities to get their supply of water. This thana was once the home of many influential and rich families, who have left behind them memorials in the shape of wells and tanks and other works of public utility. The descendants of these families have, however, left their ancestral homes and removed to the towns. They no longer think it their duty to keep these works in repair and fit for use. So the only hope of redress is from Government.

BANGAVASI,  
August 13th, 1904.

19. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th August publishes complaints of water-scarcity from the following villages:—

Water-scarcity.

Dapna, Kaliganj, district Jessore; Bholaparha, Kaliganj, district Jessore; Maisatera, Kaliganj, district Jessore; Krishnapur, Kaliganj, district Jessore; Rambhadrapur, Barhatta, district Mymensingh; Putika, Durgapur, district Mymensingh; Pagla, Durgapur, district Mymensingh; Canura, Durgapur, district Mymensingh; Gadadharpur, Ramnagar, district Midnapore; Nrisinha-Depara, Krishnanagar-Chainpat, district Midnapore; Ghoshnagar, Naldangar, district Jessore; Balarampur, Khalkula, district Jessore; Bharhail, Mahadevpur, district Dacca; Munda, Meherpur, district Nadia; Ambaria, Kumarkhali, district Nadia; Sihipur, Chanchola, district Malda; Anukhal, Kalna, district Burdwan; Udaypur, Sujanagar, district Pabna; Bagoan, Satgachhia, district Burdwan; Khatra, Supur, district Bankura; Dengaparha, Naogaon, district Murshidabad; Niyogir Baghutia, Manikganj, district Dacca; Basirhat, district 24-Parganas; Kabarikola, Dulai, district Pabna.

KRISHNAGAR,  
Aug. 10th, 1904.

20. The *Krishnagar* [Krishnagar] of the 10th August observes that the Navadwip Municipality in the Nadia district has come to be regarded as a plaything of the officials. Whoever happens to be Chairman for the moment always does something by which he may be remembered after he is gone. The residents have been putting up with instances of injustice, oppression and illegality, a hundredth part of which would have broken the backs of the less patient inhabitants of other towns.

A complaint against the official Chairman of the Navadwip Municipality.

The present Chairman of the Municipality, Babu Arun Kumar Bose, one of the Deputy Magistrates of Nadia, is young in years, and consequently without experience of municipal work. He might have managed things better if he had acted on the advice of the municipal officers or of the old Commissioners. But as he does not do this, he is constantly committing terrible blunders. The streets of this town, for want of repairs for a long time, have now become well-nigh impassable. The rains have specially made their condition worse. Arun Babu has found out a very original way of remedying this state of things. His

idea is that the constant passing and re-passing of carts and carriages drawn by horses is responsible for making the roads what they are. He has therefore by a written order stopped all descriptions of wheeled traffic on all the streets of the town except two, specially named. He never had time to think of the great injury this would do to the local traders. The bullock-carts are the only means of carrying the goods of the traders to and from their shops. If this rule is kept in force much longer, their trade will soon be at a standstill. There is a rule to punish those persons who will not build service-prives in their houses within a certain specified time. These punishments will be rigidly inflicted, yet how are those persons to manage to bring the bricks and other building materials except on bullock-carts?

The Deputy Babu should also have thought of the convenience of those persons who cross the river and pass through this town on their way to other places, accompanied by their families. This rule will prevent many of them coming here at all. This means pecuniary loss to the lessee of the ferry ghat. The owners of the carts will also find the best part of their business gone. Is the Deputy Babu prepared to grant them compensation in the shape of remission of a part of their taxes?

21. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 11th August says that Local Self-Government in Bengal is being gradually denuded of its privileges. Government does not like that the District Boards should any longer have a control over their finances. It is to discuss this subject that the Lieutenant-Governor will hold a conference of the Divisional Commissioners of Bengal in October next.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 11th, 1904.

22. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 12th August complains that the neglect by the Calcutta Municipality of its primary duties is gradually making it impossible for the people to live in the city. It is hard to realise how the municipal officers do their duties. Perhaps they confine their energies only to the European quarter of the town. In the native quarter, the sweepings are not always regularly removed. In some places, two or three days' sweepings are allowed to accumulate into a heap, and this emits a stench which makes it well-nigh impossible for people to walk the streets.

SOLTAN,  
Aug. 12th, 1904.

Special neglect is noticeable in the Ballyganj and Karrya quarter of the city. The sweepers here are allowed to do their duty at their own sweet will and pleasure. Sometimes they stay away for three or four days consecutively. Reports are made against them frequently, but without effect. At present new drains are being laid on in the streets of this quarter of the city. The rain-water finds no outlet, stagnates, and gives off a foul smell.

23. A correspondent of the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 13th August complains of the impurity of the municipal water-supply of Burdwan. About 80 or 90 per cent. of the inhabitants of the town are suffering from indigestion, which is directly traceable to this cause. There has also been a severe outbreak of fever in an epidemic form at this the very beginning of the rains. Every year there is a repetition of this story of municipal neglect. Last year the state of the water was so bad that those who could afford it brought their supply of water from the Maharaja's tanks about a mile away from the town. This year the only step the Municipality has yet taken to purify the water-supply has been to mix over a thousand rupees worth of alum in it. This is quite inadequate. Almost every house has a patient suffering from diarrhoea or fever.

RATNAKAR,  
Aug. 13th, 1904.

The same correspondent also complains of the insufficient arrangements made for lighting the streets of Burdwan.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

24. The *Murshidabad Pratinidhi* [Berhampur] of the 5th August complains of the unsuitability of the site which the authorities of the Ranaghat-Murshidabad Railway have selected for the Khagra station. The site in question will greatly inconvenience the people of Khagra, Berhampur,

MURSHIDABAD  
PRATINIDHI,  
Aug. 5th, 1904.

Saidabad, etc. The convenience of the public would be best met by locating the station at place a little to the south, at the junction of the *pucca* road with the *kutch* road which leads to Kali's temple in Vishnupur. The former Magistrate of the district (Mr. Carey) was in favour of this latter site.

Again, if the railway godown be located near the station, it would be too far from the shops and the centres of business. Traders would therefore be put to the expense of hiring carts to carry their goods to and from the station. If Messrs. Hoare, Miller & Co.'s steamers continue to ply, these perhaps might be preferred by the traders, as the steamer landing-stages are very near to their shops, and they would have no cart-hire to pay in this case. The railway might thus find a serious rival in the steamer line.

To remove the difficulty, the Railway Company should locate their godown in some suitable position in the heart of Khagra bazar, and connect the godown with the main line by a siding. Traders might in that case take delivery of their goods very near their places of business, and would have nothing extra to pay as cart-hire.

SOLTAN,  
Aug. 12th, 1904.

25. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 12th August complains against the management of the Bengal Central Railway. The carriages provided are as bad as the running speed of the trains is slow. The lights provided at night in

the several compartments of the carriages are quite insufficient. The night train which leaves Calcutta at 11 o'clock usually has one intermediate class car attached to it. The respectable classes incur the extra expense of the intermediate class only to spare themselves the discomforts of the overcrowding of the third-class cars. But as only one intermediate class car is provided, the overcrowding is as great in this class as in the third-class carriages. Then, again, the seats are ridden with bugs and other vermin, and are exceedingly dirty. Another subject of complaint is that the return tickets issued from Calcutta to Khulna expire in four days' time. But on the neighbouring Eastern Bengal State line, a return ticket issued from Calcutta to Poradaha remains in force for 14 days. This is a grave inequality, and there seems to be no adequate justification for it.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Aug. 13th, 1904.

26. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th August regrets that the East Indian Railway authorities make no attempt to redress the grievances of passengers who are treated with incivility by the railway employes. Passengers when crossing the Hooghly by the ferry steamer are often grossly insulted by the police constable on duty. European police officers on duty near the steamer freely flog the *kala admis*. The morning passengers are mostly respectable, educated Bengalis who are mostly employed in Calcutta offices. They are unable to put up with such treatment. If the authorities do not take steps to prevent the ill-treatment, who will be responsible for the mishap that may happen?

On the 7th August last, a European ticket-collector at Asansol attempted to bring down a Hindu female passenger who was travelling by the 23 Howrah-Barakar up passenger train and to detain her at the station at night. Fortunately an educated Bengali ticket-collector, one Mr. Banerji, saved the lady. It is to be hoped that the authorities will take due notice of the matter and punish the guilty.

HOWRAH  
HITAISHI,  
Aug. 13th, 1904.

27. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 13th August complains of the terrible overcrowding which prevails on Saturdays in the train which leaves Howrah for Amta at 3-48 in the afternoon. Passengers have often to travel in goods vans or in open trucks, so great is the press for accommodation in the regular passenger cars. On the 23rd July last, this train carried passengers for both the Amta and the new Antpur line up to Bahrgachi junction. The number of passengers was thus doubled, but only two or three extra carriages were put on. The speed of the train was slow, and many passengers who arrived at their destinations after the appointed time late at night were put to great inconvenience. They had to walk through the village roads to their homes, without lights and under showers of rain.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Aug. 14th, 1904.

28. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 14th August points out the urgent need of constructing a platform at Mankundu station on the East Indian Railway. This station was opened some years ago, and it is regrettable that it should still be in want

of such an indispensable thing as a platform. Besides, every year there is a *méla* or fair held here at *Rasputnima* time. This attracts thousands of passengers, the majority of whom are females, who specially feel the want of a platform. Many of them consequently prefer to alight either at Chandernagore or Bhadreswar station. The grant for constructing a platform has already been sanctioned, but the actual work has not yet been begun. Something should be done before the *Rasputnima* fair this year.

## (h)—General.

29. The *Murshidabad-Pratinidhi* [Berhampur] of the 5th August observes that the local papers have long been dwelling on the need of creating a new subdivision in the eastern part of the district, but their feeble appeals evidently have not reached the ears of the authorities.

Need of a new subdivision in the eastern part of the Murshidabad district.

MURSHIDABAD  
PRATINIDHI,  
Aug. 5th, 1904.

There is a subdivision at Lalbagh, although it is so very near the sadar station of Berhampur. Even this distance is now bridged by a railway, so the need for a subdivision at Lalbagh can never be so urgent as in the eastern part of this district, where people have often to travel thirty miles to go to the nearest Court. For the convenience of these people, therefore, a new subdivision should be opened with head-quarters at Domkol, Azimganj. This town is situated on the Seamari and it already boasts of a sub-registry office, a police outpost, a school, a post-office, and some European factories. It is a healthy town, and a Court here would serve the villagers of thanas Goas, Jalangi, Hariharpara, and Bhagavangola. It is to be hoped that some public-spirited man will seize the occasion of the Lieutenant-Governor's approaching visit to this place to bring this question to His Honour's notice.

30. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 10th August remarks:—  
Government has made a proposal to do away with the competitive system and to substitute for it the nomination system as a method of recruiting the public service. It is evident that if this change is made, the claims of justice will be ignored at every step, and not a few acts of injustice perpetrated in the matter of appointments to high offices. Meetings are being held in different parts of Bengal to protest against this mischievous change. Whether these protests avail or not, protest meetings ought to be held, and Government ought to be informed of native opinion in the matter.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Aug. 10th, 1904.

31. Referring to the Government notification announcing that "no competitive examination will be held next year for appointments to the Executive Branch of the Provincial Civil Service and to the Subordinate Civil Service," the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 11th August writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 11th, 1904.

At last Lord Curzon's desire has been fulfilled. In future nobody will be able to become a Deputy Magistrate by dint of merit alone. Every candidate for that post, however distinguished his University career may be, must buy it as a favour from the Government. While some of our countrymen are loudly protesting against the practice of begging at the door of the Government for everything they may require, the Government itself is forcing this mendicancy on us.

The evil effects of the abolition of the system of competitive examinations for recruiting the public service may be summed up under the following heads:—

- (1) Many talented and qualified young men will be unable to enter the Provincial Executive Civil Service.
- (2) Men of comparatively humble parts will become Deputy Magistrates through flattery and recommendation.
- (3) Where there is room for flattery and recommendation there may be room for bribery also.
- (4) Education has been placed completely under Government control, and now the same control is going to be extended to the public service, which will consequently be closed against the sons and relations of political agitators.

It is six months since Lord Curzon dropped a hint, in the course of certain remarks on the subject of education, that he intended to abolish the system of competitive examinations in connection with appointments in the public service. But India has slept over the matter during this long period. Protest meetings have no doubt been held here and there in Bengal, but nothing will be gained by such local and occasional protests. The agitation must be carried on in every town and every village with increasing vigour from year's end to year's end till our object is gained.

PALLIVASI,  
Aug. 17th, 1904.

32. Referring to the abolition of competitive examinations for appointments to the Provincial Executive Service, as announced in a recent issue of the *Calcutta Gazette*, the *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 17th August observes:—

We have not yet been able to see if Government will be a gainer in any way by this change. Henceforth instead simply of an examination, there will be the influence of patrons, flattery, and recommendations at work. It is not at all reassuring to think that those who in future are to wield autocratic powers will become familiar with such questionable practices at the very beginning of their official career. The English race have always favoured independence of thought. We are not sure if the new system will help to spread independence of spirit among the people. Then, there is the further question of its influence on high education. Education policy has recently been the theme of great agitation. Government has passed a new Universities Act which it hopes will help in the spread of sound and thorough education. Hitherto the more intelligent among the students had something to look forward to to reward their labours at the close of their educational career. Government now takes away this incentive. The master may do as he pleases with his own. But Government did not give us an opportunity even of expressing our opinion on this question.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 11th, 1904.

33. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 11th August writes as follows:—

Sir Andrew Fraser's visit to Bankura town.

The municipal authorities at Bankura have arranged for a grand reception to be accorded to Sir Andrew Fraser when His Honour visits that town. The town has for some years past become the hot-bed of plague and cholera. The Municipality with its enormous income shows a culpable indifference to matters of sanitation. The incitement given by the Excise Department to the drinking propensity of the inhabitants is proving the ruin of many of them. The road in which the local school and college are situated is lined with houses of ill-fame. The town police is incapable of preventing crime. It is to be hoped His Honour will see all these with his own eyes and not be misled by the grand reception which will be accorded to him in the town.

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 13th, 1904.

34. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th August writes as follows:—

Sir Andrew Fraser's tours.

The Lieutenant-Governor's tour in Bihar was marked by the same generosity and openness of mind on His Honour's part as had characterised his tour in East Bengal. In East Bengal he had dwelt on public grievances as frankly as they had been discussed in the addresses presented to him. He promised what he could give, but raised no false hopes, held out no mirage before a thirsty population. Simplicity marked every portion of his speeches. They showed that although he sympathised with the sufferings of the people, he was not free to promise them all they wanted, the funds at his disposal not being sufficient for the purpose. Sir Andrew is not, however, incapable of committing mistakes. This is proved by his Water-supply Circular and the support which he has given to the proposal to partition Bengal. However that may be, he is not a hypocrite. At Dacca he spoke of his regard for the Bengali language. At Monghyr he said, "I have great sympathy with men who desire to advance religious education among their young people. I have also much sympathy with those who desire to maintain, on the part of their community, an acquaintance with the classical language in which their sacred books are written." May God bless His Honour for these noble sympathies.

35. The *Pratihar* [Berhampur] of the 12th August, after offering a hearty welcome to the Lieutenant-Governor on his approaching visit to that town, brings forward the following points for His Honour's consideration:—

PRATIHAR,  
Aug. 12th, 1904.

Wants and grievances of the people of Murshidabad.

- (1) *The silting up of the Bhagirathi.*—This affects injuriously both the health and trade of the locality as well as the Government revenues. There has always been a talk of a dredger being put in action. Something should now be done without any further delay.
- (2) The need of constructing feeder roads to connect the outlying towns and villages with the stations of the Ranaghat-Murshidabad Railway now approaching completion.
- (3) The need of subsidising the local Municipality to enable it to undertake certain urgent works of local improvement like drainage, etc.
- (4) *The need of arrangements for the supply of pure drinking-water in the villages in the interior of the district.*—this is a need common to this district with the rest of Bengal.
- (5) *The condition of the tenants of the khas mahals in the district.*—Under the new settlement made by the late Collector they are to pay four times the rent they used to pay. They are consequently in terrible distress.
- (6) *The need of a new subdivision in the east of this district.*—There was formerly a Munsifi in these parts, but it has since been abolished. People, specially in the rainy season, are put to great inconvenience in having to travel all the way to the Courts at Berhampur to conduct their cases.

36. The *Sansodhini* [Calcutta] of the 12th August observes:—

SANSODHINI,  
Aug. 12th, 1904.

Salt rowanas in Chittagong. Traders when exporting salt from Chittagong to other districts have to take out a rowana. A month's time is then given to the trader to file the certificate of the salt having reached the consignee. But as a matter of fact the transit is often delayed for various reasons. Traders consequently have to apply for extension of the time to file their certificates. This means harassment and expense to them. They might well be spared all this trouble if the Board of Revenue extend this time for filing certificates from one to one and a half or two months. No loss can be caused to Government by such a change.

37. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th August is sorry to hear

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 15th, 1904.

Hard-worked clerks of the Bengal Secretariat Book Depôt.

that the clerks of the Bengal Secretariat Book Depôt are made to work from 7 A. M. till 6 P. M. Not even prisoners in the Indian jails are so over-worked. The case deserves Government's consideration.

38. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 15th August writes as follows:—

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Aug. 15th, 1904.

Mr. Brodrick on the Indian Budget.

While the Indians, oppressed and afflicted as they are by heavy taxation and famine, are wiping their tears with one hand, they are with the other supplying money to enable their rulers to indulge in the pride of empire and the English merchants to enrich themselves. Year after year rolls by without effecting the slightest change in this state of things. Matters would surely have been different had it not been for the facts that the administrative machinery of the British empire is placed in the hands of commercial men with whom self-interest is the sole guiding principle of action, and that the British monarch is no better than a mere symbol of the vast powers which are in reality wielded by the British public. However that may be, the other day the Secretary of State for India gave a glowing description of India's prosperity in the House of Commons. The members of that august assembly were told that under British rule the country was growing in wealth and prosperity. Mr. Brodrick might as well have said that the Indians must shed their heart's blood to promote the prestige of the Empire as well as for the benefit of the English merchants and the incapables of English society, whom England must anyhow provide

for. The English are strong, powerful and resolute in self-seeking, while we are only a half-starved, disarmed and weak, subject nation. That being the case, anything said by the former in relation to the latter is bound to be good argument. What is then the use of having recourse to such misrepresentation? India, in her fetters, cannot but submit to all the hardships which her rulers are pleased to inflict on her.

In reply to Mr. Bhownuggree's motion that "the British Exchequer defray a substantial proportion of the Tibet expenses," Mr. Brodrick said, "the charge must rest with India, for the Tibet question concerns Indian trade on the frontier, in which general Imperial interests are not involved but for India." This reply was quite in accordance with Mr. Brodrick's character and his usual attitude towards India, and in supporting it the members of the House only showed their characteristic selfishness. But is not the statement contained in the above reply entirely false and erroneous? To tell the truth, the main issue at stake in the present Tibet affair is not "Indian trade on the frontier," but destruction of Russian influence at Lhasa and the establishment of English influence in its place. Every intelligent man will therefore see that "general Imperial interests" are closely involved in the affair. But Mr. Brodrick will not admit it, because it is not the interest of the British people that he should do so. Where it would be necessary for Englishmen to make any sacrifice if the truth were told, the Secretary of State for India would not scruple to resort to falsehood. It is not through generosity or a spirit of forgiveness that the British Cabinet has decided not "to place a British Resident in Tibet." The appointment of a British Resident in Tibet or its annexation to British territory would give rise to a serious political crisis. The English are, in fact, unwilling to give offence to the Chinese Government. China is the suzerain power of Tibet. Various political complications at home have alone compelled the Chinese Government to remain satisfied with being only a silent spectator of the events that are passing in Tibet. Otherwise the Forbidden City would not so easily have yielded its secrets to the British troops. Be that as it may, fate has favoured the English, and English soldiers have arrived at Lhasa, a city sacred alike to the Hindus and the Buddhists. The prayer to the Imperial Government to defray a portion of the Tibet expenses has been rejected, and the whole cost of the expedition will have to be borne by the Indian tax-payers.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Aug. 15th, 1904.

39. The same paper publishes some complaints against the Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division. It is alleged that his manners are uncivil and forbidding. Some of his subordinates have gone away on long leave rather than put up with indignities at his hands. As an instance of his manners, a correspondent alleges that once, while he was in charge of treasury work, he assaulted a postal mail sorter with a stick. He could hush up the case only after a good deal of trouble. The correspondent mentions another case which illustrates his attitude towards the pleaders and mukhtars of his Court. One day the muharrir of a vakil entered his Court-room to lay a written application on his table. This put the *hakim* quite out of temper. He called the vakil to him, rebuked him severely for having dared to file an application through a mere muharrir, and even threatened him with the police if he repeated his offence.

It is further stated by the same correspondent that the Maharaja of Cooch Behar has a fine bungalow at Jalpaiguri, and that this officer has been living in it now for over a year without paying any rent for it. As his superior officer, the Commissioner, is *ex-officio* Political Agent for the Cooch Behar State, he evidently thinks himself safe. The proper rent of a house like this in a town like Jalpaiguri would be Rs. 40 or Rs. 45 per month. The local Municipality in calculating his income has added the rent of this house to his official pay, and assessed their taxes on the whole sum thus obtained. The *hakim* Babu is greatly annoyed and refuses to pay his tax. But it is said that the Municipality will soon cause him to be served with a distress-warrant. Who knows how far this affair will drag?

The Divisional Commissioner should inquire into the truth or falsity of these allegations.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Aug. 17th, 1904.

40. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 17th August publishes a letter

Complaints against the Commissioner of the Sundarbans.

from some correspondents complaining against the conduct of the Commissioner of the Sundarbans. It is alleged that his temper is always very violent.

He uses abusive language and even personal violence on the least provocation. Another specific charge made against him is that he has not paid adequate wages to the Inspectors and amins and the chainmen, and that in the case of some officers he has actually withheld the whole pay for a month or two.

Two cases are mentioned where two amins (named Mobarek Uddin Mian and Abdul Monnaf Mian, respectively) lost one of their survey instruments each. They were both fined ten rupees as the price of the lost instruments. Afterwards, however, both these instruments were found by a careful search and restored by the amins to the proper authorities, but their fines were not refunded, even in part.

Most of the amins have not got their pay for about fifteen or twenty days. The truth of this allegation may be verified from the office records, which will show for how many days each amin worked and how many days' pay he has received. It is to be hoped that the Commissioner of the Presidency Division will see that these poor men receive the full amounts of their pay.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

41. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th August has the following:—

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 12th, 1904.

A new tax for Bengal. (Proposed amendment of the Local Self-Government Act.)

In the draft Bill for the amendment of the Local Self-Government Act which it is proposed to introduce into the Bengal Legislative Council, power is being taken to burden the poor cultivator

and the holders of landed property with fresh taxes. The public have not yet been able fully to realise the extent of the mischief which is likely to be produced by this proposed amendment. The public will come to see how Government has found out a new way of taxing the poverty-stricken masses, how on the pretext of improving Local Self-Government, the ultimate ruin of the Bengali cultivators is being brought about.

When in 1793 the permanent settlement of land revenue was made by Lord Cornwallis, it was distinctly stated that the revenue then fixed would at no time and on no pretext be increased. But Government was not able to keep its promise. After the mutiny of 1857 came a great financial crisis. Money must be got, but from what source? English merchants were growing fat from their profits derived from the importing business, and an import duty would have been both just and profitable to Government. But the merchants were too powerful a class to be interfered with. So Government unblushingly broke its promises and determined to draw fresh blood from the helpless Indian raiyat. Under the name of "local cess" a new tax was imposed on land. This was the origin of the road cess, to which the public works cess was added later on.

When the road cess was first imposed there was a great public outcry raised against it, and Government itself felt that it was doing an unjustifiable thing and breaking its own promises. So to appease the public feeling, the hope was held out that the road cess should not be spent for any other purpose than to build and maintain the village roads; in other words, the money was to be spent for the direct benefit of those who paid it. And "as far as possible the assent and concurrence of the rate-payers should be secured both in the levy and in the management of the rates."

Again, "so much (of the cess) only should in the first instance be raised as is required for roads." In effect, however, Government has kept none of these promises. From the beginning, the cess was levied at a higher rate than was strictly necessary for local requirements. The concurrence of the rate-payers was never secured in the assessments. In 1880 Sir Ashley Eden, in utter defiance of previous promises, resolved that the proceeds of the cess should not be restricted to the making of roads alone, but should be devoted to some other purposes which he specified. To complete this tale of broken promises, in 1899 Mr. Risley coolly declared that there was no such separate fund as a road-cess fund.

The reader will see from the above how Government has acted the part of a promise-breaker all along. At first it was the road cess, then it was the public works cess, and now we are to have a third cess still. What, then, is the use of preserving the permanent settlement in name? It would save trouble in all ways if it is openly declared to have been abolished. The breaking of promises has become part and parcel of the every-day policy of Government. Why, then, should Government hesitate in this case?

As regards this new cess, the District Boards are to be responsible for collecting and spending it. It is notorious, however, that these Boards are not self-governing bodies. They are the mere creatures of their Magistrate-Chairmen, who in their turn get their inspiration from the Government.

The District Boards are henceforth to be charged with the duty of building light railways and tramways in their jurisdiction. The capital outlay would be met by a loan from Government. The repayment of this loan (both principal and interest) would be the first charge on the cess which the Board is to levy for the purpose. As regards working expenses, it is presumed that the lines would pay their own way. If they do not, there would of course be an additional charge on the cess. The District Board might thus find itself unable to repay the Government loan and interest in due time. In that case, Government will make arrangements to get back its own money by issuing a notification in the Gazette and levying a fresh cess on its own authority.

Now, all this opens the door to many abuses in the future. The poor cultivator is to be bled anew. The construction of light railways and tramways is a work which requires more funds than the District Boards can afford. Government will give nothing except as a loan. All the help Government affords is to authorise the Boards to raise fresh taxes, and thus to impoverish the people still more. So long as taxes can be multiplied there can be no difficulty about raising more money. The poor cultivator is to feel the pinch of hunger when paying his taxes, and yet he is to bless the Government for providing him with such conveniences of life as tramways and light railways. This is indeed a novel way of winning popularity!

Of course, we are in favour of everything which will improve communications in the rural tracts of the country, including the construction of tramways on the wider roads. The cost of living in towns is increasing at a rapid pace, and everybody will therefore admit that the improvement of the villages has become absolutely necessary, if the congestion in the towns is to be relieved. Such improvement includes arrangements for the supply of pure drinking-water, arrangements for cheap and rapid communication with the nearest town, etc. But all these are mainly questions of money. And if the half-starved villagers are to be made to pay the cost of these improvements, their very lives would be threatened. Government itself boasts at present of a surplus in its treasury, and it ought to spend something out of its own funds for the improvement of the villages. It can never be just that a cultivator, who cannot provide money for his own food, should be made to provide money for the construction of railways. The Indian raiyat is already poverty-stricken and tax-ridden. Failure of crop for a single season brings about the loss of thousands of lives. If the little of the means of sustenance he still possesses is to be drawn upon constantly in this way, for how long more will he be able to drag on his miserable existence?

It is to be hoped that Sir Andrew Fraser will carefully consider all these points before coming to a definite decision. It would be a matter of great regret if the first act of his administration be to increase the people's burden of taxes. We should be glad if his name remains free from this odium. When the subjects are already at death's-door, steps should be taken to set them up on their legs, rather than to put fresh burdens on their shoulders.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 9th, 1904.

42. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 9th August reports that the state of the crops in the district of Mymensingh is on the whole bad. Untimely alternation of rain and sunshine has damaged both the *aus* paddy and the jute crop. The prospect of the autumnal paddy crops is also dark, as

State of the crops in Mymensingh district.

there has been no heavy fall of rain here. The cultivators all apprehend a famine in the near future. The last two years were years of comparative plenty, but the coming year, it is feared, will be one of scarcity.

43. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th August says

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 13th, 1904.

Damage caused by the Damodar flood.

that the last flood in the Damodar has caused a deep and wide breach in the embankment at the Krishnapur village under the Jamalpur thana in the Burdwan district. This breach has assumed fearful proportions by being united with the Damodar, and is daily becoming larger. Fields under cultivation have been submerged, and even homesteads have been surrounded by water. Life and property have become insecure. A huge catastrophe may happen any moment, as huts have already begun to give way. Besides this, heaps of sand are being brought through the chasm and deposited on the fields. The seeds, seedlings, and even the standing crops on these fields have been thus destroyed. The villagers have been reduced to extreme destitution. All their credit is lost. Is there none to save them? Again, there is an old breach in the village separated from the Damodar by an embankment. This embankment is rapidly giving way before the new breach, so that there is every fear of the two breaches being united before long. And if that happens, the entire village is doomed. Government is prayed to come to the rescue of the poor villagers.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

44. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 10th August has the following:—

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
Aug. 10th, 1904.

Lord Curzon compared to King Charles I of England.

Reading the speeches about India which Lord Curzon is just now making in England, one would think that he is a second incarnation of King Charles I of England. Every student of English history knows that King Charles always thought Parliament unnecessary. He could never persuade himself that it was his duty to act on the advice of the British Parliament. He looked upon himself as an administrator specially gifted by God, and incapable of making mistakes. His own will was to be the supreme law. Everyone also knows what terrible mischief was caused by these ideas of the King among the freedom-loving English people. It passes our comprehension to understand how again at this late day, at the dawn of the twentieth century, Lord Curzon, standing on the sacred soil of England, which has always been the abode of freedom, dares to re-echo those same mischievous sentiments of King Charles. He has said, "We do not at all require the interference of Parliament in the Government of India. The less Parliament has to do anything with India the better."

We do not wish to explain more fully how far the existence of such uncontrolled love of power in a man like Lord Curzon is an indication of his possessing the power to distinguish between right and wrong. Lord Curzon evidently does not like to consult public opinion or profit by public advice in the work of administration. If our revered Emperor, Edward VII, were to dare to imitate his predecessor, King Charles, and set Parliament at defiance, one can easily imagine what a terrible convulsion would be brought about in the political sky of England. Why should Lord Curzon demand this monopoly of wisdom in the work of Indian administration? Does he look on himself as absolutely infallible?

45. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th August observes that

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Aug. 16th, 1904.

Indian loyalty.

recently the officials have begun to scent want of loyalty and signs of revolt in every act of the Indians. And yet no European can properly understand loyalty as it is understood amongst the peoples of Asia. Amongst Europeans jealousy of the Royal influence and dignity has led to the slaughter of Kings. How can such people conceive the sacredness of loyalty as it is felt by Hindus or Muhammadans or Buddhists?

If the Indians were really wanting in loyalty, how long would the King's authority exist in India? It is because the Indians are loyal at heart that they silently put up with the innumerable cases of oppression occurring daily all over the country. Every year lakhs of people see their wives and children die before them of starvation. How many of them have attempted to *loot* the

Government treasuries? If those famines had occurred in Europe or America, would the Government have been able to trust the guarding of its treasuries to a mere handful of armed sentries, as it does in this country? Take the recent famine in Russia. How many outrages were committed by the hungry peasants at that time; how many villages were raided, treasuries broken open, and officials assassinated? But in India, where the intensity of the famine is far more severe than in Russia, the peasants only curse their own lot and die. If their patience is utterly exhausted, they might in the privacy of their own homes perhaps quote to themselves a Bengali proverb which means that it is the King's sins which bring these calamities on his dominions. They would not feel justified in doing anything further to vent their displeasure on their rulers. That the King is an incarnation of God, that a sight of the King benefits a man's soul in the world to come, are fixed articles of belief with Indians.

Indians are aware that the officials here represent the King, but they are also aware that there is a difference between them and the King. It is in their ideas about these "Representatives" of the King that Indians and Europeans differ. We in India have a custom whereby we may send one of our near relatives by blood (such as a son, or a brother, or a nephew, etc.) to represent us at a feast or other social function. But we can never be represented in such a case by a paid servant.

It is here that the English fail to understand our point of view. To them anyone who goes armed with the King's authority is the King for the time being, and as such entitled to allegiance. But we with our fixed ideas on this subject cannot persuade ourselves that it is so. Let the King's brother or the King's son come here as his representative, and we would be only too glad to lay our offerings of reverence at his exalted feet. But we cannot offer the same tributes to a paid servant. The prancing of a police sentry or a European soldier might indeed inspire us with fear but never with reverence. We might indeed pay all the outward marks of respect to the King's representative, but feelings of reverence can arise only spontaneously in the heart and can never be forced at the point of the bayonet.

As regards the masses in this country, we have got accustomed to their bowing their head before the King's servants on all occasions, like so many dolls worked by a machine. But our feelings receive a deep shock when we see scions of the ancient Royal families of this country bow in submission before a paid servant of the King. In their veins flows the blood, as we believe, of Ramchandra, Arjun, and Vikramaditya. During the late Delhi Darbar, when the King's own brother, the Duke of Connaught, was present, the Princes of Jaipur and Jodhpur and the Nizam and the rest tendered their allegiance to Lord Curzon. Why should this have been the case? Why should a paid servant of the King's receive the homage due to the King alone, when a near relative of the King's was present? The reason is that according to English ideas a servant can represent his master. But we cannot give up our own fixed ideas on this subject in deference to English ideas. It was for this reason that we condemned the Darbar as a meaningless waste of money. If His Majesty the Emperor Edward were present in person on the occasion, far from treating this affair as a piece of extravagance, we would have been glad to spend more on it of our own accord, and considered the whole money well spent. At any rate, even if the King's brother had taken his seat on the throne at that Darbar, we would not have so much occasion for disappointment and regret.

This loyalty to the King's representative is now being strained so as to include in its scope officials lower down in the rank, from the District Officer through the Subdivisional Officer to the police constable. Loyalty as at present understood means that we are to submit without a protest to what may be said or done by any official from the Viceroy to a constable whose pay is six rupees a month. This is a new definition of loyalty which we have learned from the political training imparted to us by foreigners. Nowadays the slightest hint which might be construed as a protest against the act of an individual official is regarded as a sign of want of loyalty. We have learnt by experience that our rulers do not want that loyalty which we regarded as too sacred to be offered to a mere servant of the King. The sort of loyalty which they want from us is not after all such a difficult thing to practice.

No nation which is inspired with loyalty according to Asiatic ideas can ever justify the assassination of a King. During Hindu and Musalman rule in India, we do not hear of secret societies or other organisations against the King's government. Individual Musalman rulers were guilty of the grossest oppressions on their Hindu subjects, but no Musalman sovereign ever lost his life through a Hindu poisoning or assassinating him. And this although Kings were accessible to the meanest of their subjects in those days in a way undreamt of by our present Viceroy. Europeans cannot conceive that a tie may be formed between a King and his subjects analogous to that between a deity and its adorers. The King's body-guards in former times served only as pageants to add to his dignity. Nowadays they serve the very useful and necessary purpose of defending his person from sudden attacks.

It is true that in Musalman times Kings were sometimes imprisoned or murdered; but the offenders in these cases invariably were the near relations actuated by motives of personal ambition. It was only after contact with the Western nations that we read of the first instance of the people combining against their rulers from motives of public policy. If the English had not given them the idea, the zamindars of Bengal could never have thought of plotting against Serajud-dowla.

The sum of the whole question is, that notwithstanding all that the officials may say to the contrary, Indians have still left in their hearts a measure of loyalty which is not equalled by any of the European races.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

46. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 6th August is glad to learn that the

The Maharaja of Mayurbhanj's contribution to the Japanese fund.

Maharaja of Mayurbhanj has contributed Rs. 5,000 towards the help of the wounded Japanese, and the widows and orphans rendered helpless by their

bread-winners being killed in the Russo-Japanese war. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 3rd August also thanks the Maharaja for the gift.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Aug. 6th, 1904.

47. The same paper regrets to learn that 20 poor men were fined at

A conviction under the Salt Act.

Matla near Calcutta for illicit manufacture of salt, and observes that the salt-tax should either be

abolished or the people residing in sea-board tracts permitted to manufacture salt for their home consumption.

UTKALDIPIKA.

48. The same paper is glad to find that a branch of the Utkal Union

The Utkal Union Conference.

Conference has been established at Puri, and that attempts are being made to establish branches of

the same in different parts of the Orissa Division.

UTKALDIPIKA.

49. Referring to the proposal of the District Judge of Cuttack that the

A suggestion.

Munsif of Jajpur, who has not much to do, should be required to work for a week at Kendrapara,

the same paper suggests that the Aul thana of the Kendrapara subdivision should be transferred to the Jajpur subdivision and thereby the work of the Munsifs of Kendrapara and Jajpur more evenly distributed.

UTKALDIPIKA.

50. The same paper supports the resolution of the Syndicate of the

Encouragement of Indian medicine by the Punjab University.

Punjab University to increase the grant for the encouragement of Indian medicine from Rs 50 to Rs. 250 per month on the grounds that Indian medicine is more popular and better liked by the

people, cheaper, and in many cases superior to European medicine.

UTKALDIPIKA.

51. Referring to the visit of Mr. Pedler, the Director of Public Instruction,

Mr. Pedler's visit to Cuttack.

Bengal, to Cuttack, the same paper hopes that the Head of the Education Department has taken steps

to see that the results of the coming year as shewn by the Ravenshaw College and its attached institutions do not turn out as bad as those of the present year. The writer finds that the rooms of the Ravenshaw Collegiate School are in a wretched condition, and that no good work can be expected as long as the school is held in different places for want of suitable accommodation. The Muhammadan

UTKALDIPIKA.

community of Cuttack have failed to collect subscriptions sufficient to enable them to build a hostel for Muhammadan students in Cuttack.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Aug. 6th, 1904.

52. Referring to a murder case recently tried at Patna, the same paper points out that the Government Pleader of that place had the intelligence and goodness to find out from the records that the guilty had escaped and in his stead an innocent man had been sent up. He communicated his views to the Sessions Judge, the District Magistrate, and the District Superintendent of Police and they all agreed with him. The Sessions Judge had the goodness to thank the Government Pleader in a full Court for his powers of discernment exercised in time to save an innocent man from the gallows. The writer hopes that as the case in question has some resemblance to the Mansingpatna dacoity case in Cuttack, the Government as well as the Inspector-General of Police will take proper steps to find out the persons who were instrumental in hauling up an innocent man in the place of the guilty.

The Government Pleader of Patna in a murder case.

UTKALDIPIKA.

53. Referring to the recent appointments made to the Provincial Civil Service and the Subordinate Executive Service, the same paper observes that the Muhammadans have been favoured more than the Hindus. This is not fair, as the Hindu population is larger.

Recent appointments in the Provincial Civil Service and the Subordinate Executive Service.

UTKALDIPIKA.

54. Referring to a criminal case tried at Puri in which the complainant, a municipal tahsildar, having without notice forcibly entered the *sanana* apartment of the accused on the plea of attaching his property to satisfy a municipal claim of Rs. 3-15, attempted to prove that he had been assaulted and maltreated by the accused while engaged in the discharge of public duty, the writer while admitting the fairness of the judgment of the Deputy Magistrate, who dismissed the case, finds fault with him for not awarding compensation to the accused, and observes that the municipal Vice-Chairman neglected his duty by permitting the tahsildar to institute such a scandalous case and thereby waste the money of the rate-payers. The writer hopes that the Commissioners of the Puri Municipality will take steps to control their officers on the one hand and save the public from oppression on the other.

The case of a municipal tahsildar at Puri.

UTKALDIPIKA.

Rainfall.

55. The same paper states that the rainfall in the last week was insufficient.

UTKALDIPIKA.

Prevalence of fever in the Jajpur subdivision.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Aug. 3rd, 1904.

56. The same paper states that fever prevails in the Jajpur subdivision of the Cuttack district. 57. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 3rd August is glad to note that Raja Baikuntha Nath De Bahadur of Balasore has with the permission of the Inspector-General of Police, Bengal, presented a silver watch and a gold chain to Babu Trailokyanath Datta, Sub-Inspector of Police, Balasore sadar thana, for valuable services rendered in connection with a theft committed in the dwelling-house of the Raja Bahadur. The presents were made over to Trailokya Babu by the Divisional Commissioner at the Zilla School hall on the 29th ultimo.

The Sub-Inspector of Police of the Balasore sadar thana rewarded.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

58. The same paper states that the rainfall in the last week was poor. The few showers which fell at intervals, however, helped agricultural operations well. The severity of the warm weather does not seem to abate. The health of the Balasore town is not bad.

The weather in Balasore.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Aug. 4th, 1904.

59. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 4th August states that this year there was plenty of rain when there was no need for it, but now that the corn-fields stand in need of uninterrupted rain, there is no cloud to be seen. The lands on which paddy seeds were sown early fare no better than those on which they were sown later. Unless there be plenty of rain soon, the state of the corn-fields will be deplorable.

Drought in the Balasore district.

GARJATBASINI,  
Aug. 6th, 1904.

60. Referring to the proposed transfer of the police-station from village Farjang to village Khalpal on the river Brahmini in Dhenkanal and to the objections of the inhabitants of Khalpal to the same, the *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 6th August observes that the above proposal has been made on sanitary and administrative grounds, and that a thana at Khalpal will contribute to the preservation of peace both in Dhenkanal and Talcher.

The proposed transfer of a thana in Dhenkanal.

61. The same paper states that at a distance of about 20 miles from the Dhenkanal *gurb* there is a large village named Dhalpur, which has an upper primary school and which counts some educated men among its inhabitants. This village is half a mile off from the Dhenkanal-Angul Road. The writer advises the villagers to construct a metalled road connecting Dhalpur with the Dhenkanal-Angul road either at their own expense or at the expense of the Dhenkanal State.

GARJATABASINI.  
Aug. 6th, 1904.

62. The same paper is of opinion that as branches of the Utkal Union Conference have been established both at Balasore and Puri, it is desirable that a branch of the Association should be established at Angul.

GARJATABASINI.

63. The same paper is glad to learn that the Pandits of Muktimandap in Puri have conferred the title of *Bidyabinode* on the Raja of Athgurb, who has distinguished himself by his Sanskrit learning.

GARJATABASINI.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

64. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 31st July objects to the appointment of Subdivisional Officers as Chairmen of Local Boards. There are two reasons for which such appointments are undesirable: first, Subdivisional Officers are compelled to be absent from Local Board meetings when they have other urgent business to attend to, thereby causing serious inconvenience and delay in the work of the Local Board; secondly, such an appointment deprives the members of their independence, as no one can dare to go against the wishes of the Subdivisional Officer. The writer suggests that members of Local Boards should be elected by the rate-payers, and that a competent non-official Chairman should be appointed for every such Board.

PARIDARSAK,  
July 31st, 1904.

65. The same paper, in criticising this year's course of study for the lower primary schools, takes strong exception to the complete abolition of a text-book on grammar from the syllabus. A grammar is an essential help in learning a language thoroughly. The text-books on grammar at present in use, if they were thought too difficult, might have been changed for easier ones. The subject itself should not have been placed under a ban.

PARIDARSAK.

The omission of a text-book on sanitary science from the course meets with the complete approval of this paper.

The paper also suggests that the text-book on surveying might have been disregarded with advantage. The subject is too difficult for young boys, and the compulsory study of it at their age merely leads to cramming, which Government now proposes to discourage.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 20th August 1904.

The first of these is the fact that the  
 government has been unable to secure  
 the necessary funds to carry out its  
 policy of non-interference in the  
 internal affairs of the country.

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